Motor Sports
RON STAPP

# Woodside shines at Speedway

Spotlights are nothing new to Sean Woodside.

He's spent plenty of time with the equipment as a behind-the-scenes employee at Paramount Studios this year.

So it should come as no surprise that the 22-year-old Saugus resident is right at home amidst similar surroundings at Saugus Speedway this season.

Only at this venue, he's not hiding among the shadows.

In just his second full season of racing, the 1988 Saugus High graduate has risen to the top of the Sportsman points standings, and has become one of the division's brightest young stars.

"I feel a lot more relaxed this season," said Woodside, who is currently doing camera utility work for the 'John and Leeza' morning talk show. "Now I feel like I belong out there."

Woodside's jump to the top has been aided by the increased support of his pit crew, headed by his father, Larry Woodside.

The older Woodside obviously knows his stuff. He was the crew chief for former track champion Roman Calcynzski before driving several years in the Sportsman class.

"It goes much deeper than just the driver," Sean said. "There's a lot more to it than just showing up and driving. I've learned a lot from watching my dad."

He's also received several lessons from former champions Kenny Sapper and Gary Sigman, and track veteran Rodney Peacher.

"I bounce ideas off them," Woodside said, "and they're always the ones that will let me know when I've screwed up. Ninety-nine percent of the time they're right."

That has paid off for Woodside, who opens the second half of the season tonight with a 12-point advantage over fellow Saugus graduate Pat Minter Jr. and Simi Valley's John Higgins.

"There's a lot more pressure when you're on top," Woodside said. "You're always worried about the car breaking. Now I have a little bit of a cushion, which is nice. But it's never enough."

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With the Sportsman division idle at Saugus the past two weeks, several drivers opted to travel to Las Vegas for a race last weekend.

Two of the most notable performances came at the hands of Higgins and Larry Krieger.

Higgins finished second in the main event, which should help his position in the current NASCAR Sunbelt Region points standings. He entered the night as the top-ranked Saugus driver in 55th place after nine starts.

Krieger was not as lucky. The Reseda resident was reportedly running near the front when he collided with a lapped car and rolled his car.

Fortunately, he escaped serious injury. It is not known what condition his car is in, however.

Several other drivers also took advantage of the break in the schedule to race at El Cajon.

Both Sean Monroe, who is reportedly slated to buy Krieger's car, and Joey Bollo finished in the top 10 after starting near the rear.

Canyon Country's Rick Crow also fared well in his Grand American Modified car, placing 10th after starting last in a 22-car field Saturday.

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Canyon High graduate Mike Kiedrowski continues to dominate the AMA 250cc National Motocross series.

Kiedrowski has five victories in six starts this season and leads the championship standings by 78 points heading into next week's event at Kenworthy's Motocross Park in Troy, Ohio.

The Acton resident, riding for Team Kawasaki, earned 47 points last week by winning at the Unadilla Valley Sports Center in New Berlin, New York, and has virtually rapped up the points championship.

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# Delmatoff gets redemption as all-star

## Hart player scores winning touchdown

By David Shetler
Signal Sports Editor

VAN NUYS — It came seven months too late, but for Davis Delmatoff, it was at least some redemption.

The Hart High quarterback's last game with the Indians ended with bitter disappointment. Five turnovers and a 13-7 CIF-Southern Section Division II quarterfinal upset loss to Crescenta Valley.

Given a second chance to showcase his talent in Friday night's 28th Greater San Fernando Valley All-Star Game at Birmingham High, Delmatoff illustrated why he was an All-CIF performer.

His East team trailed 24-20 with 2:52 to play, but unlike the CV game when he threw an interception near the goal line, Delmatoff was able to orchestrate the come from behind victory.

His 17-yard touchdown run on an option keeper propelled the East to a 27-24 win in what was one of the more exciting all-star games in recent history.

The two teams combined for 732 yards in total offense. Delmatoff completed 10 of 18 passes for a game-high 222 yards, one touchdown and one interception and rushed for another 61 yards and two scores.

It didn't earn him a CIF championship ring, but it erased some horrible memories.

"The whole time, I've been waiting to get the Crescenta Valley taste out of my mouth," said Delmatoff, who plans to play at Los Angeles Valley College next season. "I wanted to see how I played after that."

The night, in fact, belonged to Hart High. Outside of West receiver Jason Toohey of Newbury Park, who caught 10 passes for 157 yards and two touchdowns (he led the state last season with 80 catches for 1,162 yards), the three Hart skill players in the game stood out.

Tailback Derek Charles, the 1992 Santa Clarita Valley Player of the Year who's headed to Washington State, had 158 yards in total offense, 115 on the ground in just 24 carries. And receiver Jared Halverson, who plans to walk-on at Brigham Young this fall, caught three passes for 48 yards, including two on the game-winning march.

RICH SHYEYDA/The Signal

Hart quarterback Davis Delmatoff is chased by Canoga Park's Keith Jardine in the first quarter of the Greater San Fernando All-Star game Friday. Delmatoff led the East to 27-24 victory.

That, in itself, helped Delmatoff. Having two familiar skill people and another Hart teammate on the offensive line, Nathan Thompson, made it easy to coordinate the offense.

Halverson's two catches on the last drive were simple reads out of Hart's run-and-shoot offense, where he broke off his pattern to the inside because the defensive backs were playing soft.

"You just know what they're going to do," Delmatoff said of having his former teammates out there. "You know their speeds, you know their talents. When I played over in Hawaii (a couple of weeks ago), you didn't get the same chemistry."

Charles agreed: "He's the quarterback and he knows where all the players are going to be."

But Charles was a main reason why the East offense had success. He raced 74 yards for a score the second time he touched the ball. The run was a microcosm of what he did to opposing defenses all season, breaking tackles left and right and then turning on the afterburners over the final 30 yards.

On the final drive, he burst 22 yards for a first down. After the run, the game was delayed 15 minutes due to an injury to linebacker John Buckley of Reseda, who was taken by ambulance to a local hospital with what was believed to be a neck injury.

On the very next play, Delmatoff

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# All hail Faldo, he of the Royal St. George's-record 63

## Superb round gives him 1 shot lead at British Open

By Steve Wilstein
AP Sports Writer

SANDWICH, England — 63.

Nick Faldo's record round Friday in the British Open resounded around Royal St. George's, the number spoken in awe even by fans who had seen him hole a 50-foot pitch and play about as perfectly as possible.

They didn't worry that Bernhard Langer stood only a stroke behind Faldo's two-round total of 132 — 8 under par. Or that Fred Couples, Greg Norman and Corey Pavin were just another stroke back.

Champions of majors were all over the leader board as the damp and pliant course was whipped again despite confounding winds. Five players scorched the unyielding Royal St. George's in 66 after four had carded that score on Thursday.

"All the right names are up there," Faldo said after a glance at the scoreboard.

But only one name had a 63 next to it.

Faldo's round of seven birdies and no bogeys put him on a loftier level and into golf history. It was one of the best rounds ever, three strokes better than anyone else could manage on this course in this tournament.

The best round in a dozen British Opens at Royal St. George's since the first one 99 years ago., Faldo's 63 also matched the lowest round at any British Open anywhere — a figure reached only five other times. Christy O'Connor Jr. set the previous course record of 64 in the last Open here in 1985, in turn breaking a 51-year-old record of 65 by Henry Cotton.

"When I got to the golf course this morning and saw everybody else was steaming along, I think that really sort of sets your mind into gear," Faldo said. "And then to come out and birdie the first, that was a big step."

Royal St. George's was ripe for plucking again, the greens still soft from two days of rain, and 78 players would make the cut at 143 — the lowest cut ever on this course and five below the 1981 mark when Bill Rogers became the only subpar winner at 276.

Australian Peter Senior, who was tied for the lead at 66 after the first round with Norman, Fuzzy Zoeller and Mark Cal-

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KEVIN KARZIN/The Signal

Heads up

Players from The Enforcers of Canyon Country (in white) and Sting from Woodland Hills battle for the ball in the Santa Clarita Valley Showdown AYSO soccer tournament at Arroyo Seco Junior High Friday.

# Butcher works way into relief corps, lifts Angels to 2-1 win

By Chuck Melvin
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — Mike Butcher has joined the California Angels' committee of closers.

"This was kind of a test case, and it worked out well," manager Buck Rodgers said Friday night after Butcher worked out of a jam in the eighth and pitched a perfect ninth for his first career save, helping California beat Cleveland 2-1.

Butcher, 28, entered the game with two outs and the potential tying run at third base in the eighth inning.

Pitching carefully, he walked Albert Belle on four pitches, then struck out pinch-hitter Paul Sorrento, sneaking an inside fastball past him at the knees.

In the ninth, Butcher struck out the first two hitters before Jeff Treadway lined to the mound, ending it.

"Tonight was very big for me," said Butcher, who underwent shoulder surgery during the offseason. "It shows them I can do the job, and it's a confidence-builder for me, too."

Butcher's success gives Rodgers at least four relievers he can rotate into the closer's job, joining Steve Frey, Gene Nelson and Joe Grahe. Frey got Carlos Baerga on a groundout for the critical second out in the eighth.

"It's just such a rush, I can't explain it," Butcher said. "All the work I did, all the rehab — this really makes it seem worthwhile."

The Angels took the lead in the sixth inning when Chad Curtis and Tim Salmon hit consecutive homers within a span of three pitches.

Chuck Finley (11-6) got the win, allowing one first-inning run and six hits, walking two and striking out four. He stopped Cleveland's five-game road losing streak.

With California trailing 1-0, Curtis led off the sixth with his fourth homer, hitting Mark Clark's first pitch of the inning into the left field seats. Two pitches later, Salmon hit his 18th home run.

Curtis also saved a run earlier in the game, throwing Alvaro Espinoza out at home after catching Junior Ortiz's fly to center in the second inning.

Clark (4-4), who blanked the Angels on two hits before giving up the home runs, left the game later in the sixth after straining a muscle in his right arm on a pitch to Torey Lovullo.

"Even now, it hurts like crazy," Clark said as he left the locker room. "I can't even flex the muscle. They told me it's like tearing a hamstring."

Clark was to be re-examined Saturday, and if there's no improvement, he may go on the disabled list, manager Mike Hargrove said.

Cleveland scored a run in the first on an RBI single by Belle, who extended his hitting streak to a career-high 14 games. Belle has driven in 76 runs, including 11 in his last eight games.

The inning ended with a strange double play that began when Carlos Martinez hit a fly into shallow left. Because runners were at first and second, the infield-fly rule was invoked — but Wayne Kirby, the runner at second, didn't know it. He broke for third, assumed he was the victim of a force play there, and eventually was tagged out between third and home.

"The infield-fly rule, once the ball gets to the grass, is very touchy," Rodgers said. "You've got to watch the umpire."